

Aguda group meets Rebbe

A DELEGATION of British Aguda representatives called on the Sadigura Rebbe on Tuesday. Mr I M Cymerman briefly outlined some of the various activities that Agudas Yisroel carries out on behalf of the *kehilla* in this country and Klal Yisroel in general including Daf Yomi, Russian Immigrant Aid Fund, Jewish Rescue and Relief Committee, the Pirchei Agudas Yisroel Siyum, *Jewish Tribune*, Housing, Employment and Agudas Yisroel Community Services.

The group wished the Rebbe Mazeltov on his son becoming Rov of the new Ruzin-Sadigura Beis Hamedrash in Golders Green. The Rebbe extended *refuah sheleimah* wishes for

askan Mr Chizkiyohu Shlomo Dunner.

During the visit the Rebbe discussed certain aspects of the serious situation now existing in Eretz Yisroel. He emphasised the importance of informing Diaspora Jewry of all activities that take place in the Holy Land which are contrary to Torah and Yahadus, so that their voice be heard in protest, explaining that the Israeli Government is very sensitive to criticism from abroad.

The delegation comprised Mr S Bowden, Mr I M Cymerman, Rabbi C Y Davis, Rabbi J H Dunner, Mr Y Grosskopf, Rabbi B Hammer, Mr I Kraus, Mr A Maslo, Mr S Salzman and Mr Y Schleider.

Siyum for GGBH shiur

THE TWICE weekly shiur given by Rabbi H I Feldman at the Golders Green Beis Hamedrash, North West London recently completed *Masseches Shavuos* and, last week, the participants held a *siyum* at the Shul.

Mr Yaakov Sacks completed the *massecho* and Mr Arthur Freed said a Dvar Torah. Judge Leonard Gerber, who presided, made a presentation of *seferim* to Rabbi Feldman on behalf of the shiur's 30 regular attendees. The shiur is noted for its depth of learning and *iyun* and has been given continuously for over 25 years by the Rav.

Mr Yitzchak Katz paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr Bobby Moise zl, a regular

participant who passed away during the year and whose widow, Mrs Sylvia Moise, defrayed the cost of the *seudah le'aliyas nishmos*.

The Hadran was delivered by Rabbi Feldman on the *inyan* of "Gulgul Shavuos" linking the completed *massecho* with *Baba Metzia* now being learnt by the shiur. He also said that, amongst his manifest rabbinical and communal duties, it was this shiur that was closest to his heart, and he floated the idea that, with so many people retiring earlier, the time had come when the *kehilla* should consider a morning *Kollel* for *baalei batim* so as to increase the extent and depth of their Limmud Torah.



Rabbi Weissler reads the Megillah on Purim morning.

Great work in Siberia

THE Rov of Novosibirsk, Siberia's capital with a Jewish population of 20,000, Rabbi Yehudah Weissler has briefly been back in his native Manchester.

He told the *Jewish Tribune* that he has been in the position for three months and is connected with the Eretz Yisroel based movement Shvut Ami. He has actually been in Russia for a year and points out that there are some 100,000 Jewish souls in all Siberia, living in such towns as Omsk, Tomsk, Irkutsk and Barnaul besides Novosibirsk. They are mostly refugees from Lithuania and White Russia.

Novosibirsk is only about 100 years old and formerly possessed two Shuls both of which vanished during the Communist regime. Rabbi Weissler has started a *minyán* in his own home and is to rent a larger apartment shortly for Shabbos use. Other projects include a school, held on Sunday, which educates both parents and children and currently has 40 pupils on the roll, and a *kollel* which is commencing with ten people prepared to learn all day.

Rabbi Weissler's wife Mirielle acts as Director of Religious Studies. She is a daughter of Rabbi Zvi Zabin, former columnist of the *Jewish Tribune*, now of Jerusalem, and a niece of Rabbi Azriel Schechter, Chairman of Great Britain's Keren Hashevus.

Committee, now much in the news. Rabbi Weissler read the Megillah on Purim night to some 800 people at a concert. In the morning he read it again to 30 people who also attended the *seudah*.

Brisos take place at times and the Novosibirsk mayor plans to help Rabbi Weissler to find proper shul accommodation.

But life is tough. Rabbi Weissler says that assimilation is worse than in Europe and everyone's ancestry has to be accurately checked out.

Role model

THE Beis Hamedrash Hendon, North West London was filled last week for a Daf Yomi siyum on *Masseches Kiddushin*. The occasion also marked the *yohrzeit* of Reb Chaim Aharon Monderer zl whose son *yibodel* Pehaim Yitzchok made a *siyum* on *Masseches Nedarim*. It was also the *yohrzeit* of the Noam Elimelech.

Guest of honour Rabbi Ben Zion Blau recalled fond memories of the Baal Hillulah and Rabbi David Halpern, Rov of the Beis Hamedrash declared that the late Mr Monderer had been a role model for the ideal *baal habayis* to follow, personifying the three pillars of the world — Torah, Avodah and Gemilus Chasodim.

NEW SHUL AND ROV

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children attended the Chanukas Habayis ceremony on Sunday at the Beis Hamedrash in Golders Green Road. Tehillim were recited and the significant occasion was marked by a *lechayim* and songs of praise and thanks. That evening the Rebbe distributed special *matheos* to the children who regularly make up a Chevras Tehillim group.

The celebratory dinner later that night in Hampstead Garden Suburb was jointly chaired by Rabbi Chaim Yitzchok Cohen, Menahel Kloli of Mosdos Sadigur throughout the world and Mr Yitzchok Shapira, an ardent follower of the Rebbe. The event came to life when Rav Elchonon Halpern, President of the Union called on the assembly to loudly declaim Mazeltov three times in honour of the new Rov of the Beis Hamedrash, the Rebbe's son, Rabbi Yisroel Moshe Friedman which was the signal for everyone present to go forward and shake his hand — a privilege people queued to enjoy. Earlier Rav Halpern applauded that a new centre of Torah and *piras shomayim* had been established in Golders Green, noting that the Shechina does not only reside in the Beis Hamedrash but also radiates into the homes of its *mispallelim*. One of the chairmen remarked earlier that the Beis Hamedrash grew out of the excellent shiurim given by the new Rov and it is indeed a great *simcha* that this *mokom kodosh* now exists.

In welcoming all present, Rabbi Friedman pointed out that a *seudas chanukas habayis* is a *seudas mitzvah* in Eretz Yisroel whereas in *chutz la'oretz* it is considered a *seudas reshut*. Every Beis Hamedrash, even those outside Eretz Yisroel, is like the ones in the Holy Land itself, he went on, and thereby represents *kedusha v'tahara* and a place where *avodas Hashem* is practised. He thanked the *jungeleit* for their *yegia* and noted with satisfaction the *siyato dishmavo* in their actions which enabled the Beis Hamedrash to come to fruition and overcome the difficulties that initially beset it.

Klal Yisroel is divided into *shevotim* who each have their own distinctive and individual way of

avodas Hashem, observed Rav Chaim Wosner, Rav of the Satmarer *kehilla* in London. Ideally each *shevet* respects the approach of the others and recognises that the full *avodah* is only truly reached with the sum total of all the various *derachim*. He saluted the great *mesora* of Ruzin-Sadigur and wished it well in the future.

This double *simcha* of a new Rov and Beis Hamedrash is a great one for Klal Yisroel, declared Rav Akiva Schlesinger, Rov of Strasbourg. The *simcha* that a new location for *avodas Hashem* now exists is felt both in *elyonim* and *tachtonim*. He pointed out that when the Beis Hamikdash was destroyed its stones flew over the entire world and new *Botei Midrashos* must now be established on each site where they fell. One wonders how many more will have to be built before the Beis Hamikdash is restored. In this connection he quoted Rav Shlomo Kluger who noted that each generation plays its part, through its *maasei chesed*, in bringing the Beis Hamikdash closer. Unfortunately there are those who by their less noble actions destroy some of the preparations for the Geulah and sadly we are therefore obliged to wait. At this time of joy it is appropriate that we reflect on these matters, he said.

The branches of Ruzin-Sadigur-Chortkov were compared to those of the Menorah in the Mishkon — of pure gold — by Rav Nochem Cohen, Menahel Ruchni of the Sadigura Talmud Torah in Yerushalayim who briefly spelled out some of the glory of this house of Yisroel.

Divrei Brocho were presented by the Sassover Rebbe, Rav Simcha Rubin and Rav Yisroel Meir Erlanger of the Kollel Divrei Shir (Rabinow).

The Rebbe, in the final address of the event, recorded his satisfaction at the setting up of the Beis Hamedrash; it is only a beginning, he observed, and it must now strive to become a place renowned for its *kedusha* and *tahara*, brought about through the staunch *avodas Hashem* of its *mispallelim*. He thanked all concerned for what has been achieved so far.

A presentation was made to Mr Yehoshua Landau, president of the Jewish community in Paris, and his son.

Praised

THE MESIRUS Nefesh of the late Csaba Rov, Rav Shalom Schnitzler zl in surviving the Holocaust and setting up the successful Kollel Tiferes Sholom in North London was described by his son, Rabbi Boruch Yehudah Schnitzler of New York at the thirteenth annual dinner in aid of the Kollel in London on Motzoel Shabbos. He proposed a vote of thanks to all the *mosad's* many supporters and noted that the costs of the *seudah* had been defrayed in memory of the late and beloved *askan* Reb Yitzchok Eisig Gottesfeld zl.

In his Divrei Brocho, Rav Henoch Padwa, Av Beis Din of the Union, lauded the Kollel and called for its support.

Further praise for the *mosad* and the *hasmedoh* of its *avreichim* came from Rav Chaim Wosner, Rov of the Satmarer community in London, Rabbi Azriel Schechter and Rabbi Yitzchok Kleiman. The latter pointed out that former *talmidim* of the Kollel have gone on to be *marbitz* Torah in countries such as Mexico.

Mr Yisroel Yaakov Frankel was in the chair.



Rabbi Waltner

European Kollel

THE ROSH Hakollel of a European Kollel based in Ezras Torah, Jerusalem, Rabbi Meir Waltner is currently visiting this country on behalf of his *mosad*.

The Kollel was established six years ago and is under the presidency of Rabbi Waltner's father, Rabbi Zusha Waltner, formerly Sunderland Rosh Yeshiva. There are 45 *jungeleit* now on the roll, from England, Belgium and Switzerland.

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